

January 14, 1985

Dear Mom,

So sorry to take so long to get a note off to you. I've been trying to find the time since Christmas Day. Seems I'm always busy or just too darn tired (translate "lazy") to settle down to some paper work. But school will be in session again soon (2 weeks from today) so I'm launching a letter-writing binge to get my desk cleared up before the real drudgery begins.

First, let me thank you for your part in the waffle maker/grill Christmas gift. I like it very much, and have already made a couple waffles and one "tuna melt", even though those things are not on my current diet. I'm sure that it will get frequent use after I've

achieved my weight goal of 150 lbs.
Your thoughtfulness in scoping out
my apartment for a gift idea this
past summer is much appreciated.

About my weight - it has been
gradually creeping up over the
past 4 years, but suddenly jumped
about 10 lbs this past semester.
On December 15th I weighed 169 lbs
- an all-time high - so I drew the
line. I lost 11 lbs in the first 9
days of less eating, more exercise, but
then I went to San Francisco for 3
days and gained 4 lbs. Since then
progress has been very slow & see-
sawing, but generally in the right direction.
I weighed 155 this AM, will have one
small protein meal (tuna) and fresh
vegetable salad and a 5-mile run,
and expect to be down to 154 by Jan 15
(tomorrow morning), giving me a total loss

of 15 lbs. in 30 days. Then I will have only 4 lbs to go to reach my goal. Of course, then the trick is to keep it off. I'm not near as concerned about my actual weight (adding a few lbs of muscle would be OK) as I am about those unsightly rolls of fat that I was developing around my wrist. Anyhow, it's been a real struggle and I'm pleased with my overall progress.

By now you've noticed the enclosed check for \$25⁰⁰. Let me explain. Last year I sent you a total of \$300 in cash to help out with your trip and other essentials. That averages out to \$25 per month + I thought it might be better for you if I sent that amount once a month on a regular basis so that you could budget better.

I am constantly worried about you

financial situation and wondering how you survive on Social Security payments. Also, I know that Jack, Gail and Rick "take care" of things around the house for you from time to time, and since I can't be close by to see what current needs you may have, I'd like to do my part by sending a monthly check. I hope knowing that you can count on a little increase in your monthly income will add on increased sense of security, as the cost of living goes up.

I am enclosing a little pamphlet published by a group called "Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays" (Parents FLAG) plus a copy of a magazine article about Adele Starr, founder of Parents FLAG. I thought you might find them interesting and informative.

Also enclosed is a copy of a hateful and deceptive letter being circulated

in the name of Christianity by the Reverend Jerry Falwell designed to promote fear and repression of gay people. To you and me Falwell's statements are obvious and outrageous distortion and lies. But the problem is that they are readily believed by the vast majority of Americans who have never had any other source of information about gay folks. Such campaigns often result in physical violence against gay men & lesbian women, and discrimination in housing and employment of gay people. When gay people organize and stand up for their rights they are called "militant". Please be aware that the Rev. Falwell was asked to give the invocation at the 1984 Republican National Convention and is very buddy-buddy with President Reagan.

The weather here has been warm

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and clear most days but with some very cool/cold nights (40's + 50's).

We've had very little rain this month but are still way ahead of our seasonal average rainfall due to heavy rains in November + December.

I hope that your winter remains mild and your health problems remain non-serious.

I'll be calling you within the week to see how things are going, but wanted to get this in the mail first.

Much love,
Bob